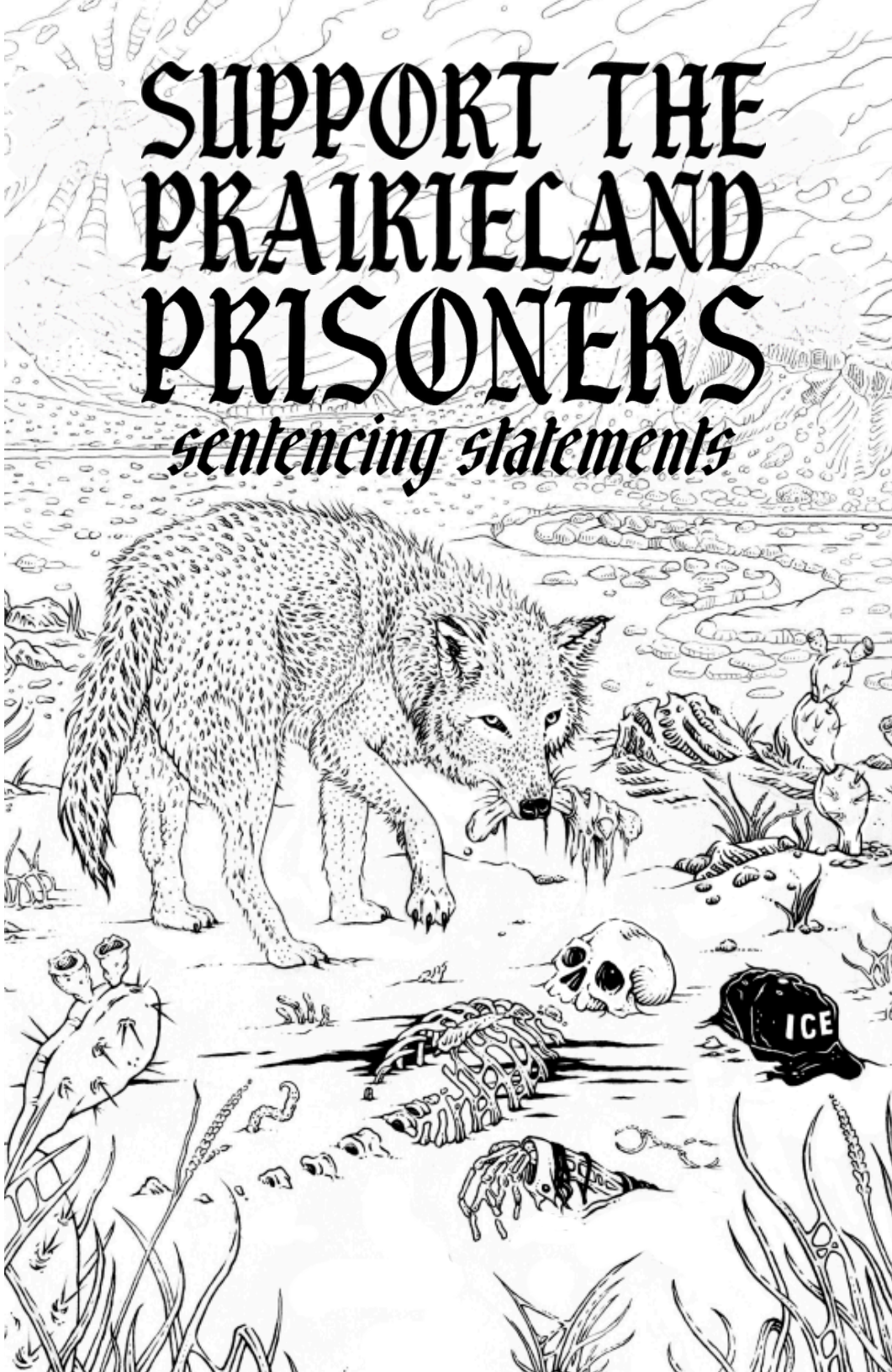
life means
taking sides

prairielanddefendants.com

SUPPORT THE PRAIRIELAND PRISONERS

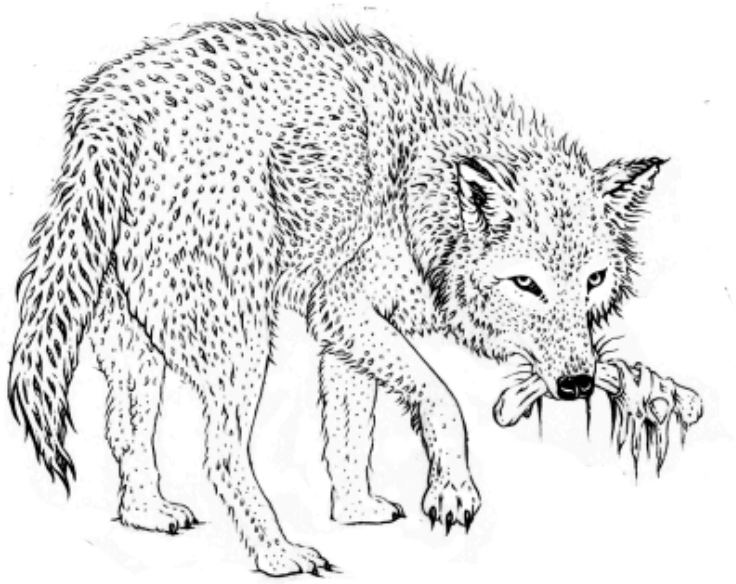
sentencing statements



updated November 4, 2026

cover image from Screwston Anti-Fascist Committee's
fundraiser for the defendants: *screwstonafc.shop*

with whatever weapons at hand



Free the Prairieland Prisoners! Free Them All!

Savanna Batten sentenced to 50 years in prison

Zachary Evetts sentenced to 50 years in prison

Autumn Hill sentenced to 50 years in prison

Maricela Rueda sentenced to 70 years in prison

Daniel "Des" Rolando Sanchez Estrada sentenced to 30 years in prison

Benjamin "Champagne" Song sentenced to 100 years in prison

Elizabeth Soto sentenced to 50 years in prison

Ines Soto sentenced to 50 years in prison

Rebecca Morgan sentenced to 15 years in prison

Joy "Rowan" Gibson sentenced to 15 years in prison

The Prairieland defendants sentenced on June 23, 2026 are Savanna Batten, Zachary Evetts, Autumn Hill, Maricela Rueda, Daniel "Des" Rolando Sanchez Estrada, Benjamin "Champagne" Song, and Elizabeth Soto. All defendants, with the exception of Des were convicted of rioting, providing material support to terrorists, conspiracy to use an explosive, and use of an explosive device, which referred to the consumer grade fireworks used on July 4. Des was convicted of concealing a document—political literature—and, along with Maricela, conspiracy to conceal documents. Champagne was additionally convicted of attempted murder of an officer and discharging a firearm in furtherance of a crime. Ines Soto, who was convicted at trial, and Joy "Rowan" Gibson and Rebecca Morgan who took non-cooperating plea deals were sentenced on July 1.

Champagne, the most harshly sentenced Prairieland defendant, having received a 100-year prison term, gave a moving statement in response to their sentence, explaining for the first time the motivations for their actions the night of the noise demonstration at the Prairieland ICE Detention Center. "What we all saw happen to Renee Good and Alex Pretti is my worst nightmare," said Song. "So, when I was standing in the street on July 4th, 2025, in plain view with reflective safety strips and high visibility clothing, what I saw right in front of my eyes was my worst nightmare," continued Song. "When I saw Lieutenant Thomas Gross stop pursuing and point his gun at the back of a running, unarmed protester, like he testified, I was terrified."

"As a firearms instructor and a United States Marine Corps Veteran, I understood what I was seeing. I knew what it meant for someone to lean forward into a gun, […] to prepare for recoil. As the evidence shows, I did not want to hurt anyone. I never had the intent to hurt anyone. It is impossible to say that I was trying to ambush or anyone or planning violence," Song told the court. "I am so grateful that we are not here mourning another death and tragedy. Another Alex Pretti. Another Renee Good."

"This case has relied on lies and misinformation from the start," said Amber Lowrey, the sister of Savanna Batten, who was sentenced today to 50 years in prison. "While these absurd sentences are no surprise based on the bias of the court, it is heartbreaking nonetheless. But we will keep fighting to overturn these unjust convictions and to free Savanna and all the Prairieland defendants. We will not rest until they are free!"

"As a congregation, we decided that this case was a fundamental test of our right to dissent against authoritarian regimes," said Ana Marie Thorne, Chair of the Social Justice Committee at All People's Church Unitarian Universalist in Fort Worth. "These defendants are not militant monsters out to kill," continued Thorne. "They are everyday people who saw our country literally interning people in concentration camps and decided to show up at Prairieland Detention Center to let those incarcerated there know that they mattered. We leave here today knowing that the outcome of this trial is not the end. It is the beginning."

"The weight of the sentences that have been handed down is crushing but we should not be surprised," said Ines Soto in a prepared statement. Soto was one of the defendants sentenced today. "The government has shown it is willing to separate loved ones across borders, cage people in squalid detention centers, bring violence into loving

We will continue to fight to bring our loved ones home.

federal government over the past year have proven the righteousness of their actions.

neighborhoods, and gun people down in the streets," continued Soto. "It is only through our collective efforts that we will get through this. I trust that everyone will find ways to contribute to and expand these efforts how they can."

"The whole process of our prosecution and trial was one long gauntlet of terror after terror, designed to bully us into false confessions, and to drive the jury to abandon reason and condemn nine innocents," said Prairieland trial defendant Autumn Hill, who was sentenced last week to 50 years. "I do not believe in harbouring hate or terrorizing anyone," continued Hill. "I believe in Love. Do not fear, Love, and trust in the Love of your fellow creatures. Fear Not is the encouragement of the angels. Be Strong and Courageous is the instruction of the Most High in scripture. Where there is Love, there is no Fear."

"The fictitious narrative presented by the government doesn't exist in reality," said Elizabeth Soto, the wife of Ines Soto, in a prepared statement. Elizabeth Soto was sentenced last week to 50 years in prison. "It is their design created to criminalize people for protesting, for not conforming," continued Elizabeth Soto. "We are living through a moment in time that will affect everyone in the future. If this conviction is allowed to stand, it will affect countless others," continued Elizabeth Soto. "To the world, we cannot let this stand. For the people who come after us, we must never give up. We will go home."

"This conviction is the continuation of a campaign of terror and violence that has been allowed to imprison people speaking out against the immigration policies of this administration," said Savanna Batten, who was sentenced last week to 50 years. "To my friends, to Renée Good, to Alex Pretti, and to the people being held in detention centers across the country, I have the very same urgent message that compelled me to Prairieland that night with a heavy heart: 'We see you. We love you. You are not forgotten.'"

"A wide reaching dragnet has been cast, hoping to pull as many people in as possible to 'set an example' for anyone who even dares to believe in a better world for all of us," said Prairieland defendant Janette Goering, who has not been tried yet and is facing State charges. "Personally, I am terrified. It's hard not to be," continued Goering. "But, that doesn't mean I am going to give up. And neither will my codefendants, nor countless others in this struggle."

The Prairieland cases, involving 22 people charged with both state and federal charges, stem from a noise demonstration in solidarity with detainees at the Prairieland ICE Detention Center in Alvarado, Texas, on July 4, 2025. After the protest, an officer with the Alvarado Police Department arrived on the scene, quickly drawing his gun and pointing it at departing protesters. Shots were fired and the officer allegedly sustained minor injuries, but authorities have never provided hospital records to justify these claims. Alvarado police arrested ten people in the area, and a dozen more were arrested over the following several months.

"Our loved ones did nothing wrong, and they are being thrown away for the rest of their lives. Not only does the evidence prove their innocence, but the actions of ICE and the federal government over the past year have proven the righteousness of their actions… We will continue to fight to bring our loved ones home."

The following links will take you to the defendants active fundraisers:

DFW Support Committee

www.givesendgo.com/supportDFWprotestors

Maricela Rueda & her family

www.gofundme.com/f/help-maricelas-family-while-she-fights-for-justice

Daniel "Des" Sanchez Estrada, Maricela's spouse & the only non-U.S. citizen in this case

https://fundrazr.com/free-des-revol

Not only does the evidence prove their innocence, but the actions of ICE and the

Our loved ones did nothing wrong, & they are being thrown away for the rest of their lives.

Autumn Hill

Autumn Hill's name was legally changed circa 2023, but the federal complaint has used her previous name.

On the evening of July 5th, the FBI conducted a no-knock raid at Autumn's shared house. Autumn was arrested after exiting the house without a struggle.

Interests: Religious history and mythology

"Send me more messy gay fiction!"

Autumn has requested more queer fiction books, especially by queer authors of color.

Write to Autumn:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Cameron Arnold, 202502023
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Please address your actual letter to Autumn Hill.

Post-Sentencing Statement from Autumn Hill

"I guess everybody's a domestic terrorist now."

I can't say how many times I've heard these words in the last few months. After the murder Alex Pretti, top officials were quick to defend the ICE officers who extra-judicially executed him by labeling him a domestic terrorist. They said the same about Renee Good. Over the last year, I have been forced to keep my silence as the government spun a conspiracy theory labeling my friends and I as domestic terrorists, as members of a shadowy terrorist conspiracy that does not exist. I have watched them lie about the compassion, loving kindness, and mercy of the dearest hearts I know, and call them murderous, riotous, violent. I have kept my silence. Now I will break it to speak the truth.

A wise woman I love called the tactics of this administration "state terror." It was terror when Lt. Gross aimed his handgun at the back of a fleeing protestor before he ever saw a gun. It was terror when a SWAT Team traumatized my wife and found family with a no knock raid, and pointed roughly a dozen guns at a newborn infant and her nursing mother. It was terror when Johnson County Jail tortured my friend Lynette Sharp, who I love, targeting an older woman for her perceived weakness, so she would cooperate to save her life. It was terror when Shawn Smith brought an indictment threatening us with decades of prison, and terror when he attempted to use that to coerce us to sign plea deals admitting to material support for terrorism and to cosign government-authored lies about the existence of an anarchist or autonomous Marxist terror plot, which the government's cooperating witnesses undermined in their testimony during trial at the risk of perjury, lies which may cost our codefendants 15 years of their lives, those who plead guilty. It was terror when Judge Mark Pittman threatened our lawyers with contempt jail time for representing us for seeking our best interests, terror when he browbeat the jury panel during selection, and terror when he paraded us in front of Lynette in a demonstration of his power to abjectify us in public to facilitate identification. The whole process of our prosecution and trial was one long gauntlet of terror after

EMAIL

dfwsupportcommittee@hacari.com

INSTAGRAM

dfwsupportcommittee

TWITTER

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mas.to/@dfwsupportcommittee

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givesendgo.com/supportdfwprotestors

Write to the Defendants

Note: As of July 25, 2026, the final destination for the defendants sentenced to prison is unclear and subject to change. Regularly check in with the support website for accurate information. Many of them have been incarcerated since July —let them know they are not alone! All mail is monitored by state and federal law enforcement. Be extremely mindful of what you are writing. Do not under any circumstances discuss the facts of the case and do not include overtly political commentary. Consider writing about fun things you've done, tell stories, or transcribe your favorite poem. Visit the New York City Anarchist Black Cross website for more detailed letter writing information.

Guidelines

Only write in blue or black ink on white 8.5×11 paper. No stickers, glitter, or whiteout. Include first and last name as well as ID number, page numbers, date, and a return address at the top of each sheet.

terror, designed to bully us into false confessions, and to drive the jury to abandon reason and condemn nine innocents.

It is said and corroborated that the sounds of violent argument and a bloodcurdling scream of terror were heard from the jury room during deliberations. Ultimately, our unprecedented sentences are government by terror. If you are an activist, says Judge Reed O'Connor, and you even THINK standing up for the incarcerated, or standing up to police is acceptable, be terrified. This is what we the government will do to you too. Terror has always been the tactic of fascists and white supremacists, of the haters in the streets, from the lynchings and coups of southern whites at the end of Reconstruction and through Jim Crow, down to the mass shootings, far right rallies in blue cities, and other acts of stochastic terror through the modern day. When Mr. Fair of the SPLC testified before congress about the upcoming court case about their work, he described hate as having moved into the government. It is this administration which stands for hate, and this government which uses the tactics of terror. "Do not dare stand up to us," they say with their actions. "This will happen to you."

I do not believe in harbouring hate or terrorizing anyone. I believe in Love. Do not fear, Love, and trust in the Love of your fellow creatures. Fear Not is the encouragement of the angels. Be Strong and Courageous is the instruction of the Most High in scripture. Where there is Love, there is no Fear. Take care of each other. Shelter and feed each other, the widow, the orphan, the alien in the land. Prison is the great terror which has been wielded to silence us, but I have never feared power more than I love truth, and it is love that can overcome the regime of mass incarceration, and truth that will set America free. Arise, Love! Arise, Truth! Abolition Now!

Benjamin “Champagne” Song

Champagne lived with their partner and codefendant, Joy Gibson (Rowan). They had four cats, who have since been housed with family and friends.

“Champagne gave themselves fully to their community with love, duty, and devotion. They fed the unhoused population of Oak Cliff and provided training in first aid. They also taught a weekly queer self defense class.”

Champagne had steady, full-time employment but has since lost their job and their apartment.

Read Champagne’s poems: *prairielanddefendants.com/defendant-writings/poems-by-champagne/*

“My interests include history, world events, culture, food culture, cooking, food preservation, food history, reef and tidepool life, travel, politics, economics, cats. I enjoy history and philosophy books, sci-fi and fantasy, personal accounts, and books with pictures and photos. My ask would be: send me info on regional foods, news stories, prison recipes, pictures of nature and animals.”

Write letters to Song using the following address (you can address them as Champagne or B, and any/all pronouns are okay):

Johnson County Jail, TX
Benjamin Hanil Song, 202502108
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Zachary Evetts

Write to Zachary:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Zachary Evetts, 202502013
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Post-Sentencing Statement from Savanna Batten

This conviction is the continuation of a campaign of terror and violence that has been allowed to imprison people speaking out against the immigration policies of this administration.

Experts warn that my conviction will have a "chilling effect" on previously constitutionally protected activities; this was made clear as the intent when Judge O'Connor said he wanted to make an example of us, with clear disregard for the facts of the case.

This is a government telling its citizens that to raise a voice of dissent carries a life sentence, maybe even death.

To my friends, to Renée Good, to Alex Pretti, and to the people being held in detention centers across the country, I have the very same urgent message that compelled me to Prairieland that night with a heavy heart: "We see you. We love you. You are not forgotten."

Post-Sentencing Statement from Benjamin "Champagne" Song

I don't hate. I don't hate anyone. I don't hate cops. I don't hate Trump. I don't hate Nazis. My beliefs are composed thus:

First, that we should help each other.

And second, that we should protect one another.

I never want to see anyone get hurt. I never want to see good people, standing up for what they believe in, gunned down in the street. What we all saw happen to Renee Good and Alex Pretti is my worst nightmare.

It was the kind of thing I had feared for a long time, after dealing with officers who could be reckless, who could be bullies, who could be violent. But fear is not hate. Sadness is not hate. Wanting people to live is not hate.

So, when I was standing in the street on July 4th, 2025, in plain view with reflective safety strips and high visibility clothing, what I saw right in front of my eyes was my worst nightmare.

When I saw Lieutenant Thomas Gross stop pursuing and point his gun at the back of a running, unarmed protester, like he testified, I was terrified. As a firearms instructor and a United States Marine Corps veteran, I understood what I was seeing. I knew what it meant for someone to lean forward into a gun, like he testified, to prepare for recoil.

As the evidence shows, I did not want to hurt anyone. I never had the intent to hurt anyone. I tried my best to avoid hurting anyone. It is impossible to say that I was trying to ambush anyone or planning any violence. I was shocked, and surprised, and saddened. I am so grateful for what didn't happen. I am so grateful that we are not here mourning another death and tragedy. Another Alex Pretti. Another Renee Good.

Another Botham Jean. Another Manuel Teran. Another Atatiana Jefferson. Another Philando Castile.

Now, 22 people have been arrested, have been persecuted, have been tortured, for what?

For nothing.

None of these people really did anything.

And none of these people have anything to do with what happened with me.

This is wrong. This is mass punishment. This is collective punishment. This is guilt by association. This is injustice.

Back in 1895, the white supremacist and U.S. Senator, Pitchfork Ben Tillman, gave a speech to the Constitutional Convention of South Carolina on how to use injustice to take power. He said, "how did we recover our liberty? By fraud and violence." We tried to overcome the 30,000 majority by honest means which was a mathematical impossibility. After burying these indignities for eight years, life became worthless."

This is how men take power over others. By injustice, by fraud and violence.

That history matters because injustice has always been dangerous. It does not only harm the person standing in court. It spreads. It teaches people to be afraid. It teaches people that the government can decide who is guilty first and look for reasons afterward.

First, they covered up and hid evidence.

Second, they banned every Black juror so that no one would question the police.

Savanna Batten

Savanna lived with a beloved adventure cat, Garfielda, and 6 hermit crabs, Sebastian, Turbo, Pearl, Muscle Crab, Small Sebastian, and Fist Full of Crab (all rescued). They have been an animal lover their whole life, and vegan since 14. Savanna and Garfielda love most to spend time outdoors together and with friends. Savanna has lost their job and apartment, and they have been separated from their loved ones (human and animal) since their incarceration in July, 2025.

Interests: Nature, prairie ecology, bugs, animals, reading

Write to Savanna:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Savanna Batten, 202502020
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Statement on Rebecca Morgan's Sentence
by Deya Morgan

I want to first and foremost thank the people of the support group that have provided Light and illumination to circumstances and situations that defy reason and logic to people like myself. The mother, who is so far removed from where all the proceedings are being held. I have never felt more cared for by a group of strangers that are come together for one cause. To make sure the truth is being told and that justice is served in due proportion. These sentences have been too severe. Even conservatives have said they have gone too far and are too extreme.

In trying to make examples of our loved ones, the opposite may be the direct result. People will have their eyes opened to the tragedy taking place here during these sentencings. The truth will come out.

This generation of youth feels bewildered, hopeless, and are being told this is utopia. This is all there is. It is no wonder people are standing up to policies that don't make sense. These are the ones that haven't given up completely. They want all humans to do better than just sub exist. They are being gagged and told they do not have the right to dissent. It saddens me because all humans deserve more than just the promise to survive.

Third, they told me I had no right to protect myself or anyone else and they told me I wasn't even allowed to say the word: self-defense.

As you heard at the trial, they tortured their own witnesses. American citizens were tortured and terrorized and medically neglected. Three men died in jail last week, by the way. And now, a 24-year old has had a heart attack. A 58-year-old woman said she would die in this case. Mothers, fathers, teachers, students, package workers, programmers and engineers persecuted and tortured in this case.

People are being treated as if their lives do not matter. All of this is bigger than me. I know I am the person standing here. I know I am the person being judged. But I also know that a case like this can become a warning to everyone else: that if you speak, if you protest, if you try to protect someone, if you are associated with the wrong idea, you can be turned into a symbol instead of treated like a human being.

Nothing saddens me more than when I think about all of these different people and their different families and communities, and how they have suffered, and how unfairly they have been treated, just like me.

Whatever is taken from me is taken from you.

It may be these 22 strangers now, but it will be you tomorrow.

On June 9th of this year, the President of the Southern Poverty Law Center testified that hate has migrated into the government. Into the government. The hate is right here.

The government, in it's secret motion to give me a life sentence, calls me the embodiment of Antifa. What does that even mean? I am not a member of a group called Antifa. I am not part of any terrorist organization. There is no group called Antifa. Everyone knows that, but this government is so blinded by hate, they've arrested 22 good people for nothing. They want to bury me with an idea. This idea that they hate is the very idea of being against fascism.

What kind of people are not against fascism?

What kind of people are not against the hate and war and genocide and concentration camps that the Nazi's brought upon the world?

What kind of people would not agree to "no kings" and "no Fuhrers?"

The hate has migrated into the government. Now that hate is taking power over me. It is taking power over you, over your words and your ideas.

When will you be called a domestic terrorist, too?

When they killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti, they went on TV and they called them domestic terrorists, the same day, within the hour.

When will that happen to you?

When I was staying in my home city of Dallas for 11 days, I did fear then I might die at any moment from a government that I think is hateful and vindictive. I did not run because I wanted to escape responsibility. I stayed because I wanted to survive long enough to do the right thing.

I don't fear for myself. I fear for all of you.

What will you do in this time of great failures and great injustices? What will you do?

How will you help each other?

How will you help yourselves?

Rebecca Morgan

Rebecca has a degree in neurobiology and loves history and applied sciences. She is an avid reader, a splendid artist, and talented cook. Friends and family describe her as kind and compassionate.

Write to her about nature, your favorite recipes, what's going on on the internet, or the book you're reading.

Write to Rebecca:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Rebecca Morgan, 202502109
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Maricela Rueda

Maricela, known as Mari by her loved ones, is forever the youngest sibling. Mari's favorite color is blue. She shared a home with her dog Oso, two cats Sir Tomothy Pierce Cuddleson III and Trash Cat, and two bunnies Daisy and Daffodil (kidnapped and unsure where they ended up after FBI home invasion). A vegan since 2019 who loves sharing yummy food with others. Not really a "gardener" but practiced in planting wishes and trying to cultivate growth. Mari misses karaoke duets with her now 13 year old kiddo, potlucks with friends, going to reading and writing groups, driving with the windows down and music loud, and laughing with her partner. Read a poem by Maricela: *prairielanddefendants.com/defendant-writings/poems-by-champagne/*

Also please see this additional fundraiser that Mari's family has created:

www.gofundme.com/f/help-maricelas-family-while-she-fights-for-justice

Write to Maricela:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Maricela Rueda, 202502018
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Daniel "Des" Rolando Sanchez Estrada

Des Revol—a tattoo artist, PoC anarchist, immigrant, and all-around sweetheart—is currently facing serious charges related to transporting "antifa materials" (aka zines) in the larger Prairieland case of political repression in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. But Des isn't just a victim of trumped-up political prosecution. He's a beloved artist and friend who loves nothing more than experimenting with new vegan recipes, digging into new books, looking at baby opossums and sometimes fostering them, spitting out bars or writing poetry, and spending time with loved ones. As a longtime vegan dedicated to animal liberation, solidarity with nonhumans shows up in much of Des's artwork, including through his playful depictions of raccoons, cats, and other critters. Des extends this deep solidarity outward: he's a loving brother, son, and friend; he's a free-spirited dreamer who takes good care of everyone and everything around him. Now stuck in a federal prison and facing potential deportation, Des is continuing to lend solidarity by, among other things, drawing pictures for other inmates to send to their families. Des's Support website: *freedes.net*

Interests: Animals/nature, tattooing/drawing, veganism/cooking, motorcycles

Daniel Rolando Sanchez Estrada #95099-511
FCI Victorville Medium II
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 3850
Adelanto, CA 92301

July 7th, Des's Statement from Federal Prison in Fort Worth, Texas

All honor and glory to Creator for another day of life, the lessons and blessing I've been given.

With the loudest of meows from a sad, fluffy kitty!! With a broken heart mended together with a sewing needle made from a battery and a string pulled from the elastic waistband from a jumper, reinforced with blank mail labels and a rubber band. With my head up high, teary eyes, and this broken heart full of love. I want to thank everyone for all of their support, love, and prayers as my family and I survive through this horrible injustice.

Today, July 6, marks a year since I was unjustly abducted and wrongfully imprisoned. I sit in a concrete cell with a heavy steel door as an innocent person for a crime I did not commit.

The reality is that I was arrested for being married to my wife, Mari, who has been unjustly convicted to 70 years for attending a public noise demonstration to support immigrants at the Prairieland detention center.

Despite proving that I did not have any knowledge, nor was I present, nor involved in any way in the event, I was demonized, convicted, and sentenced to 30 years in federal prison for reading and possessing my books, zines, love letters, poetry, cute keepsakes, sketchbooks, and art. These items that I owned are several years old, they're completely legal, and have nothing to do with the events that transpired at the detention center. These books and zines range in topics, like history, social movements, political philosophy, sexual trauma, antiracism, consent, overcoming addiction, ecology, and even children's literature. I've also been demonized for owning and creating art in the form of stickers, drawings, paintings, posters, clothing, and even custom tattoo designs—all images that can be considered cute, raw, critical, beautiful, empowering, satirical, and sometimes plain silly.

Lucy Fowlkes

Lucy Fowlkes (she/they) is the most recently arrested defendant in the Prairieland case. Lucy loves gardening and horticulture. Hiking and exploring. She loves her dog, Daisy. She lives on a farm and raise goats and chickens. She loves nature and just being outside. She is very protective of people she loves and strangers as well. She was part of a prayer circle in the jail and is bonding with their cell mates.

After being held for months in Johnson County, Lucy was finally released on bond in July 2026!

Joy “Rowan” Gibson

Rowan (they/them) lived with their partner and codefendant, Benjamin Song (Champagne). They had four cats, who have since been housed with family and friends.

Rowan serves their community with love and care. They were always there if someone needed help and fed the unhoused population of Oak Cliff. They are a vegan who cared for stray animals around them and did their best to make sure everyone had a home.

Interests: Animals, poetry, anime, art, science fiction, fantasy literature, cooking, gardening/plants

Write to Rowan:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Joy Gibson, 202502016
PO Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Even though these items were not evidence, nor relevant, nor used against anyone else, other than to sensationalize their existence to scare, influence, and persuade a jury for a verdict that benefited the prosecution, the prosecution openly lied and used misinformation to scare the jury. Nonetheless, it seems like we’re entering a time when books and art are being considered a crime and a threat to democracy—enough of a threat to give an innocent person who did not commit any crime a 30-year sentence in federal prison.

There have been many examples in history when people in power unleashed vicious campaigns using lies, deception, hate, and fearmongering. Creating scapegoats who are blamed for society’s ills, and labeling them criminals, traitors, degenerates, and terrorists. And enacting laws that allow them to criminalize, persecute, and brutalize entire communities based on their race, nationality, gender, status, disability, ideology, and religion. Any art or books that questioned or did not conform to their narrative were considered abhorrent, abominable, and dangerous. Therefore censored, hidden, burned, or destroyed, and its authors and creators were punished, imprisoned, or executed. In order to silence any dissenting opinions that threatened their narrative, power, and goals. This is why the right to free speech is not only important but fundamental and pivotal for any free society and democracy to exist and thrive.

As I watch the news, I notice a rampant amount of injustices and atrocities happening in this moment. War, displacement, blatant corruption, hate campaigns, persecution, deportations, fear, uncertainty, brutality, and a general disregard for people’s rights and ultimately their lives. Nevertheless, despite all of that, I’ve witnessed a display of beautiful acts of love, courage, kindness, solidarity, and resilience. Many people coming together to take care of each other, to work and build together. Acts of love that are admirable, inspiring, and necessary to overcome the tough challenges that we all currently face.

As a hardworking immigrant who came to this country at the age of 14, a lover of history, and not ignoring the fact that I’m currently incarcerated in what is an obvious injustice, I want to say that I’m grateful to this country

and land for the opportunities and experiences it's granted me. With all of its historical failures and achievements, with all of its flaws and virtues, with all of its dreams and limitations, with all of its promises and possibilities. I'm grateful for the experience of being exposed to an array of different cultures, different ideas, and a diverse population, simultaneously trying to figure out how to overcome conflict and division and live together. All dreaming of prosperity, equality, liberty, and the right to the pursuit of happiness. Although an oversimplification, at the end of the day we all just want to be free and happy and live in peace with those we love.

I want to give thanks to my amazing family and friends who continue to support, uplift, and hold me with so much love and tenderness. Who have given me advice, a gentle slap on the back of the head, a hug, and a shoulder to cry on. Who continue to inspire me and show me how to be a better person. To all those who have taken the time and consideration to reach out and share stories, poetry, doodles, vegan recipes, interesting facts, and kind uplifting words: Thank you for all the love! I can truly feel it even behind these walls. I can feel the energy, effort, and prayers. Thank you so much for supporting us all!! And I hope we can all meet someday and share space together.

Despite the circumstances, I'm grateful for existence, and thankful for all the experiences and people that I've met.

Though a bit cheesy, I want to share this with you. When I close my eyes, I try to focus on this:

I'm grateful for all of my loved ones. I'm grateful for black coffee, paper, pencil and a device to listen to the radio. I'm grateful for the green mountains, red sunsets, and smell after the rain. I'm grateful for soft snow, lake swimming, and shade under a tree. I'm grateful for hugs, tiny kisses, and cuddles. I'm grateful for a dark sense of humor, witty jokes, and tummy pain from laughter. I'm grateful for hiking trails, camping, and motorcycle rides. I'm grateful for kitties, tlacuaches, and raccoons. I'm grateful for my clients, and trusting me in the sacred process of tattooing you. I'm grateful for fundraisers and donations. I'm grateful for prisoners' support writing

Statement on the Federal Sentences from Janette Goering

As I stared at the numbers that came in from federal sentencing, I can only say I'm heartbroken and distressed. Maximum years per charge assigned, to be served consecutively, to ensure the greatest amount of suffering is inflicted. And for what, besides to "send a message"?

What justice, this?

And to know this isn't the end of the state's case is all the more anxiety inducing. State level charges are waiting to be or have been filed, and trials are inbound for those convicted so far, and for several others, including myself. We face a sentencing range of 15 to 99 years in state prison per charge if convicted. I have no doubt we'll all be looking at the upper end of that range.

A wide reaching dragnet has been cast, hoping to pull as many people in as possible to "set an example" for anyone who even dares to believe in a better world for all of us. Families shattered and lives ruined, all to set a cruel precedent and design a playbook to handle those who follow after. To what end? It will never be enough for them.

Personally, I am terrified. It's hard not to be. But, that doesn't mean I am going to give up. And neither will my codefendants, nor countless others in this struggle. Every day is another chance to fight against these injustices. Things may seem bleak now, but we all must continue on.

Everybody comes home.

We will prevail. We cannot dare to think otherwise.

Janette Goering

Janette's loved ones are funding Janette's case via savings and kind parents. She is a software engineer by trade and loves teaching people in her spare time. She has a husband of 8 years, and 2 wonderful cats.

Donate to her fundraiser: *fundrazr.com/a2jpW0*

At 6 am on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, several Black SUVs surrounded Janette's home and in full tactical gear with automatic weapons broke the silence of the pre-dawn day to search her home and arrest Janette. She was awoken from sleep in a panic and ordered to leave the home where she and her husband were placed into handcuffs and led out for her to be put into the back of a black SUV and driven from her home under arrest.

Goering's bond was set at $5 million. She was released on a reduced bond of $275,000 on June 11, 2026.

She wants all letter writing efforts to go towards the federal trial defendants who just got sentenced on June 23, 2026.

night. I'm grateful for those who rescue food and cook meals to share with others. I'm grateful for mutual aid and relief work during emergencies. I'm grateful for groups that offer support and services to immigrants and refugees in the inner city and out in the desert. I'm grateful for people who take care of animals, and help them when they're being harmed, injured, or in need of a home. I'm grateful for farmers, garden fairies, and tree huggers. I'm grateful for herbalists, their remedies, and the sacred relationships to plants. I'm grateful for our animal and plant friends, and their lessons if we just stop, look, and listen. I'm grateful for the children with their honesty, curiosity, and imagination who remind us of the importance of play. I'm grateful for the students' energy, passion, and zeal, and their vision for a better world. I'm grateful for the teachers who go above and beyond for their students. I'm grateful for the educators who took me under their wing and mentored me. I'm grateful for the nurses, street medics, public defenders, movement lawyers, and legal support teams. I'm grateful and want to give thanks to the women/queer homies who do all the heavy lifting at home and in our communities.

I'm grateful for our parents, elders, and mentors who care about us, and continue to give us guidance and inspiration. I'm grateful for the abolitionists, academic professors, and honest journalists. I'm grateful for the vegan potlucks and all the deli vegan nomz. I'm grateful for the nerds, cosplayers, and dweebs. I'm grateful for shoulder rubs and hand massages. I'm grateful for the temazcal, el copal, and drum. I'm grateful for the genuine smile from a stranger. I'm grateful for the megaphone, powerful chants, and street cheerleading. I'm grateful for big butts and thicc thighs haha. I'm grateful for glitter, rainbows, and bubbles. I'm grateful for large banners, light brigades, and puppets. I'm grateful for authors and poets who fill our hearts and minds with stories, knowledge, and nurturing words. I'm grateful for the artists, emcees, graff writers, b-boys, zinesters, and DIY screen printers. I'm grateful for the muddy greens climbing trees, brave train hoppers, and crusty punks who are some of my fav people. I'm grateful for the organizers, volunteers, and supporters. I'm grateful for all the homies who pick up, clean, and wash dishes after any gathering. I'm grateful for all the bookfairs, gatherings, bookstores, publishers, distros, printshops, and community spaces and community projects. I'm grateful

for the sunflowers, who teach us to grow despite the adversity, stand upright, be strong, be bright, be vibrant, be beautiful, and be resilient.

I'm grateful for all my relations.

I'm grateful for you!

Support the defendants!!

Don't forget to love your neighbors, the animals and plant friends, the land, air, and water. And don't forget to love yourself!

May Creator bless you and yours!!

Post-Sentencing Statement from Ines Soto

I want to begin by extending my love and appreciation to all those who have supported me, my codefendants, and loved ones through out this situation. The strength this support has given me is beyond what I can describe.

The weight of the sentences that have been handed down is crushing but we should not be surprised. The government has shown it is willing to separate loved ones across borders, cage people in squalid detention centers, bring violence into loving neighborhoods, and gun people down in the streets. Their attempts to bury people in their prisons falls right in line with these horrible acts. Migrants, immigrants, and those acting in solidarity with them must be honest about the reality we face. It is only through our collective efforts that we will get through this. I trust that everyone will find ways to contribute to and expand these efforts how they can.

I humbly ask for people's continued support in our struggle for freedom.

Your friend,

Ines

Ines Soto

Ines is a father of 3, provides for his youngest child, and has 2 fur babies. His partner, Liz, was also arrested. *"Ines is big-hearted, a dedicated friend and father with a great sense of humor and even greater sense of civic virtue. He sticks to his values and is incredibly honest. He is trustworthy, determined, genuine, and humble. He is always focused and committed to his family. He embraces the loner and welcomes the stranger. We met at a social event that I came to alone: he was the first person to welcome me. He has a genuine interest in making everyone comfortable and an overall interest in the well-being of others. Ines spends a lot of time and resources cultivating spaces for creative individuals from marginalized communities to meet each other. Whether he's working on cars or shooting hoops with the kids, it is evident that Ines is someone who loves deeply. I have seen him personally risk his safety to ensure others' safety. He has a long history of volunteer work including natural disaster relief. He fights for unpopular, excluded, and desperate people. Now we have to fight for him. Ines lost his job of over 5 years after being arrested at an intersection the night of July 4th. With two people incarcerated, the remainder of his small family is struggling financially. Ines is an avid reader who likes fantasy and sci-fi but isn't picky and looks forward to reading just about anything."* Ines lost his job of over 5 years after being arrested at an intersection the night of July 4th. With two people incarcerated, the remainder of his small family is struggling financially. Ines is an avid reader who looks forward to reading just about anything. He would love receive more photos off pretty stuff, outdoorsy stuff, and memes!

Write to Ines:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Ines Soto, 202502008
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Dario Sanchez

Dario is a computer science teacher with 5 years of service. In the summer of 2024, he put his career on hold to take care of his partner who is injured and needs help caring for herself. He was arrested at a pre-dawn raid on their home with no struggle. In spite of this ordeal, he hopes to return to the classroom and share his love of technology with students for years to come.

Days after being released on bond, another charge and bond conditions were added at a pre-trial hearing. This second, unexpected arrest is where Dario witnessed the horrific abuse of another prisoner. Weeks after being released on bond, prosecutors had Dario arrested a third time, at gunpoint, after alleging he searched for information on explosive devices, when in reality his bond officer had made those searches. All of this has been a massive financial drain on him and his partner, with fees attached to each of his bond conditions.

Elizabeth Soto

Elizabeth (Liz) is a mother of 3, provides for her youngest child, and has 2 fur babies. Her partner, Ines, was also arrested.

"Liz is the kind of person whose loving nature shows in everything she does, fulfilling the role of an older sister in many of her relationships. She is always fiery and passionate. She is as courageous as they come. Liz is spontaneous and fun, enjoying life with an adventurous zeal. A lifelong learner, she passionately studies history. In her family, she prioritizes their traditions and culture. Her non-judgmental presence allows her to connect lost or hurting people with community and support. The community confides in Liz and depends on her for support and advice."

Liz lost her job after being arrested at an intersection the night of July 4th. With two people incarcerated, the remainder of her small family is struggling financially.

Interests: Geology, botany, ecology (with a special interest in the prairielands), native plants, gardening, gothic horror, and historical fantasy

Write to Liz:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Elizabeth Soto, 202502014
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Post-Sentencing Statement from Liz Soto

The government is using zines and a printing press to sentence me to 50 years, a life sentence in prison. My crimes have been made clear by the prosecution, they don't want people like me to have access to these constitutionally protected and invaluable resources. This is an attempt at silencing decent, at creating fear amongst its citizens to insure no one speaks against this current administration.

The fictitious narrative presented by the government doesn't exist in reality. It is their design created to criminalize people for protesting, for not conforming.

We are living through a moment in time that will affect everyone in the future. If this conviction is allowed to stand, it will affect countless others. The precedent has been set, we are the examples created to silence those who speak out.

It is up to all of us to push back.

Remember that this happened.

Remember how it happened.

Know it doesn't end here.

Now it can happen to anyone.

To the world,

We cannot let this stand.

For the people who come after us, we must never give up.

We will go home.